

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CANBER 06592 210749Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----063648 210751Z /21  
P 210721Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4088

S E C R E T CANBERRA 6592

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE FROM AMBASSADOR ALSTON

EO 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: MARR PINT AS  
SUBJECT: DEFENCE MINISTER KILLEN'S UNCERTAINTY OVER SENSITIVE  
ASPECTS OF JOINT U.S.-AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE COOPERATION

REF: STATE 209835

1. THIS IS A PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO REFTEL. THE PM'S  
PROBLEM GROWING OUT OF THE ROBINSON-WITHERS AFFAIR CONTINUES,  
I AM CERTAIN, TO OCCUPY HIS AND YEEND'S FULL TIME AND ATTEN-  
TION.

2. SORRY PARA 4 IN CANBERRA 6386 CONFUSED YOU. I MEANT USG.  
IF ASKED WE WILL ACKNOWLEDGE IN A GENERAL WAY THAT AUSTRALIAN  
QUERIES HAVE LED BOTH STATE AND DEFENSE TO WONDER WHAT LIES  
BEHIND QUESTIONS BEING ASKED.

3. PARAGRAPH 2 OF STATE 184110 WAS NOT REPEAT NOT INCLUDED  
IN THE PARAPHRASE OF THAT ENTIRE TELEGRAM WHICH CHRIS SQUIRE  
READ TO YEEND, AND I AM 99.99PERCENT CERTAIN THAT I MADE NO  
REFERENCE TO THE SUBSTANCE OF PARAGRAPH 2 WHEN I SPOKE  
WITH YEEND.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CANBER 06592 210749Z

4. WE HAVE A DEEP APPRECIATION OF PARA 4 OF REFTEL.  
AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, DAVID PASSAGE PREPARED THE  
STATEMENT WHICH SENATOR WEBSTER USED ALMOST IF NOT  
TOTALLY VERBATIM.

5. I AM CONVEYING TO YEEND THE SUBSTANCE OF PARAGRAPH 5  
OF REFTEL TO KEEP THE BALL IN PLAY IF FOR NO OTHER

IMMEDIATE REASON.

ALSTON

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic DecapTIONing:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MILITARY AGREEMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 aug 1978  
**DecapTION Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**DecapTION Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CANBER06592  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X2  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780340-1358  
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**From:** CANBERRA  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 209835  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1682058  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEFENCE MINISTER KILLEN'S UNCERTAINTY OVER SENSITIVE ASPECTS OF JOINT U.S.-AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE COOPERATION  
**TAGS:** MARR, PINT, AS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f0e45160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014